

#### **4-1.3 DECISION NO. 35**

##### **FIRE SPRINKLERS FOR QUARTERS**

###### **Issue:**

The FIRE ADMINISTRATION AUTHORIZATION ACT of 1992 Public Law (P.L.) 102-522 requires an automatic sprinkler system (or equivalent) and hard-wired smoke detectors for multifamily property occupied by Federal employees, or their dependents, who do not occupy such housing as of such date of enactment; in the case of any other housing, before; (i) occupancy by the first Federal employees, or their dependents, who do not occupy such housing as of such date of enactment; or (ii) the expiration of 3 years after such date of enactment, whichever occurs first, is protected by hard-wired smoke detectors.

Because of the absence of regulations for the enactment of this P.L., interim guidelines were required because of the potential impact on Indian Health Service (IHS) facilities.

The Health Facilities Advisory Committee (HFAC) in March 1993 recommended guidelines for all IHS quarters or residential units in Decision No. D-13. The National Quarters Council and General Services Administration had opted for a more conservative approach, requiring a fully automatic sprinkler system, or equivalent, and a hard-wired smoke detection system for single story multifamily units. D-13 was not as conservative and it was brought to the HFAC that the more conservative approach was intended by P.L. 102-522.

###### **Decision:**

The HFAC recommends that the first guideline of D-13 be replaced with the following:

MULTIFAMILY UNITS ACQUIRED AFTER OCTOBER 26, 1992 - Provide fully automated sprinkler system (or equivalent) and hard-wired smoke detection system for more than two residential units. For quarters that are two residential units or less, provide a hard-wired smoke detection system.

Effective immediately, this guide will apply to all existing IHS family quarters.

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##### **Reference:**

These guidelines will be included in Chapter 4-1, Health Facilities Advisory Committee, Part 4, Volume I of the Technical Handbook for Environmental Health and Engineering.

Adopted by HFAC on July 1, 1998.

Kenneth R. Harper, P.E.  
Chairman, HFAC